

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7317

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2436

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR MINISTER BELL ARA/PAN FROM BLACKEN

PASS TO GENERAL DOLVIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PANAMANIAN TECHNICAL GROUP ON LANDS AND
WATERS APRIL 2, 1976

1. DURING FIRST MEETING OF SERIES OF TECHNICAL LEVEL SESSIONS,
US REPRESENTATIVES, COLS. JACKLEY AND DUKER AND FSO BLACKEN,
MET WITH A PANAMANIAN GROUP HEADED BY DR. CARLOS LOPEZ
GUEVARA (EDWIN FABREGA IS ABSENT FROM PANAMA UNTIL APRIL 10),
AND COMPOSED OF DR. OMAR JAEN AND FLAVIO VELASQUEZ. JORGE
CARASCO WAS PRESENT AS INTERPRETER.

2. THE US GROUP SET THE STAGE FOR THE SERIES OF MEETINGS
WITH THE FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENT:

3. "WE HAVE DEVELOPED A SERIES OF PROPOSALS WHICH AS OF NOW
REMAIN UNCLEAR. YESTERDAY WE DISCUSSED THESE IDEAS FOR
THE FIRST TIME WITH TOP OFFICIALS OF SOUTHCOM AND
PANCANAL AND RECEIVED SOME REACTION.

"THE FORMAL REACTION OF THESE OFFICIALS WILL COME
LATER.

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"WE ALREADY KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE DIFFI-

CULT TO PERSUADE THE MILITARY AND PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITIES THAT THE AREAS OF ACCOMMODATION THAT WE MAY SUGGEST ARE IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

"WE ARE AWARE THAT THEIR NEEDS MUST BE ACCOMMODATED BECAUSE FOR A TREATY TO BE RATIFIED, THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITIES MUST SUPPORT THE POSITIONS WE DEVELOP.

"THE DISCUSSIONS WE ARE HOLDING HERE REPRESENT GENERAL DOLVIN'S EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY FOR THE US NEGOTIATORS TO ACCOMMODATE PANAMA'S GOALS AND NEEDS IN LANDS AND WATERS.

"I THINK YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROPOSALS WE ARE WORKING ON--IF THEY FIND FINAL APPROVAL IN WASHINGTON--WOULD REPRESENT A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN OUR GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POSITION WHICH WAS PRESENTED LAST YEAR.

"OUR NEGOTIATORS BELIEVE THIS NEW POSITION WILL REPRESENT A MAJOR CONCESSION. THEY WILL EXPECT CORRESPONDING ACCOMMODATION BY PANAMA ON THINGS THAT THE US NEGOTIATORS FEEL ARE IMPORTANT.

"AGAIN I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THE IDEAS WE PRESENT TODAY DO NOT YET REPRESENT ANY APPROVED US POSITION AND ARE BEYOND OUR GOVERNMENT'S GUIDANCE AND THE NEGOTIATORS' AUTHORITY. I MUST ASK THAT THIS BE CLOSELY HELD WITHIN YOUR GROUP. IF THIS WERE TO GET WIDE CIRCULATION PREMATURELY, GENERAL DOLVIN'S EFFORTS COULD BE COMPROMISED.

"TODAY, WE WILL TALK ABOUT MILITARY AREAS.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING MONDAY DURING WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS LANDS AND WATERS NEEDED FOR CANAL ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION. WE WILL THEN BE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME PANCANAL OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE PRESENT SOLELY FOR CLARIFICATION OF THEIR POSITION.
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WE WILL BE PREPARED IN LATER MEETINGS TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE IDEAS ON LANDS AND WATERS ISSUE AND WILL WELCOME YOUR INFORMAL REACTIONS AND IDEAS."
JORDEN

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NNN

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